

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, 17, and 30. Accordingly, claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claim 17 was objected to because of informalities. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 16, 18 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Malomsoky et al, US 6,304,639 (Malomsoky). The Applicant has amended the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Malomsoky. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 has been amended and now recites the step of determining physical restrictions of the interconnection network wherein the physical restrictions include a configuration and type of switching elements and links coupling the switching elements in the interconnection network. In addition, the method includes the step of, responsive to the determined physical restrictions of the interconnection network, mapping the interconnection network with a virtual circuit identifier. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs 10 and 35 and FIGs. 1-3 of the Applicant's specification.

Malomsoky discloses a general dimensioning method and system for allocating limited transmission resources to various virtual paths defined on top of a physical network. A two-level hierarchical structure is defined with a layer of one or more virtual paths on top of a layer of physical network elements.

The Applicant's invention, on the other hand, determines the physical restrictions of the interconnection network. The physical restrictions include a configuration and

type of switching elements and links coupling the switching elements in the interconnection network. These determined physical limitations are then used to map the interconnection network with a virtual circuit identifier. Malomsoky does not disclose these limitations. Malomsoky teaches partitioning the physical network resources. However, Malomsoky does not determine the physical restrictions of the network, and from these determined physical restrictions, map the interconnection network with a virtual circuit identifier.

Claim 30 has been amended and now recites a means for determining physical restrictions of the interconnection network. The physical restrictions include a configuration and type of switching elements and links coupling the switching elements in the interconnection network. In addition, the system includes a virtual circuit identification algorithm in communication with the switching network for providing an even distribution of data traffic through the switching network. The virtual circuit identification algorithm is responsive to the determined physical restrictions of the interconnection network. Malomsoky does not disclose these limitations.

Therefore, Malomsoky does not disclose all the limitations of claims 16 and 30. Claim 18 depends from amended claim 16 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 16. Claims 31-33 depend from amended claim 30 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 30. Therefore, the allowance of claims 16, 18, and 30-33 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-15, 17, and 19-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malomsoky. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites the step of determining physical restrictions of the interconnection network wherein the physical restrictions include a configuration and type of switching elements and links coupling the switching elements in the interconnection network. In addition, the method now includes the step of,

responsive to the determined physical restrictions of the interconnection network, determining a logical representation of an architecture of the interconnection network. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs 10 and 35 and FIGs. 1-3 of the Applicant's specification.

The Applicant's invention determines the physical restrictions of the interconnection network. The physical restrictions include a configuration and type of switching elements and links coupling the switching elements in the interconnection network. These determined physical limitations are used to determine a logical representation of an architecture of the interconnection network. Malomsoky does not disclose these limitations. Malomsoky merely teaches partitioning the physical network resources. However, Malomsoky does not determine the physical restrictions of the network to provide a logical representation of an architecture of the interconnection network. Rather, Malomsoky partitions the network into a plurality of virtual networks to simplify the operation of the network. Malomsoky does not determine the physical restrictions of the network to determine a logical representation for utilization in finding paths through the switching elements and links so that data traffic is more evenly distributed through the interconnection network.

In regards to claims 17 and 19-29, independent claim 16 has been amended. The Applicant's claimed invention determines the physical restrictions of the interconnection network. The physical restrictions include a configuration and type of switching elements and links coupling the switching elements in the interconnection network. These determined physical limitations are used to map the interconnection network with a virtual circuit identifier. Malomsoky does not disclose these limitations. Malomsoky teaches partitioning the physical network resources. Malomsoky does not determine the physical restrictions of the network to map the interconnection network with a virtual circuit identifier.

Therefore, Malomsoky does not teach or suggest all the elements of claims 1 and 16. Claims 2-15 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claims 17 and 19-29 depend from amended claim 16 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements

of claim 16. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1-15, 17, and 19-29 is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

In paragraph 9 on page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure. However, none of the prior art made of record discloses all the elements of the Applicant's claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Weatherford", written over the printed name.

By Sidney L. Weatherford
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